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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES A \$5,646.00 GRANT TO TWIN RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

In a Mock Check Presentation ceremony today Greg Branum, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, announced the funding of \$5,646 to Twin Rivers School District for solar powered street crossing lights.

"I am pleased to present these funds as a partner for such a worthwhile project," Branum said. "Providing safer access to and from school for our young children is an excellent example of USDA Rural Development programs assisting communities. They mirror President Bush's initiatives and exemplify the Rural Development mission-committed to the future of rural communities."

"This alert system will help protect our people," said U. S. Senator Jim Talent, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. "The chief responsibility of government is to do that which our citizens can not do for themselves. Providing an infrastructure that will help save lives in an emergency is something I've been pleased to support in the Senate."

"I've worked with Clarkton and Kennett, and their lights are now in place. I'm confident that we can be successful in bringing these lights to many more of our districts," said Otto Bean, State Representative for District 163. "The safety of children must always be a top priority!"

"One of the most important issues in our schools is the safety of our students," said Danny Rowland, Principal of Twin Rivers School Middle School. "We have had several automobile accidents on Highway 53 in front of our school. These accidents have involved students, parents and teachers. One accident involved one of our school buses with students on it. This grant will allow us to install flashing lights that will operate during school hours. I feel this will help drivers realize this is a school zone. Hopefully they will slow down and be more cautious when driving through our school zone."

Branum extended special thanks U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for making available the federal funds for these kinds of rural projects.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural



Front Row, left to right: Danny Rowland, Middle School Principal, Mitzi Dell, Dana Jennings, School Board Member, Pam Anglin, Manager of Poplar Bluff Local Office, Greg Branum, USDA Rural Development State Director. Back row, left to right: Rob Mayer, Missouri State Senator, Andy Arbeitman, Superintendent of Twin Rivers School, and Otto Bean, Missouri State Representative

programs is available by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Pamela S. Anglin, Rural Development Manager, at the Poplar Bluff Office, 4327 Highway 67 N, Poplar Bluff Missouri 63901 or by calling 573-785-9679.

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

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